

Shelton Land Conservation Trust, Inc.

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Testimony to the General Administration and Elections Committee In Favor of SJ 36 and in Opposition of HB 5619

Submitted by: Joseph T. Welsh President Shelton Land Conservation Trust, Inc
March 14, 2016

On behalf of the Shelton Land Conservation Trust, I would like to ask that you support S.J. 36. Given the amount of State owned lands that make up many of the greenways in Shelton and surrounding towns it is important that these lands are forever protected. By making sure the right provisions are put on all State owned conservation, agricultural, and recreational lands they will be forever protected as intended. One of the things we are charged with is to make sure lands are preserved for perpetuity and we believe a Constitutional Amendment is needed to achieve this.

Hopefully you too realize the importance of better protecting all State lands and vote in favor of S.J.36.

I also urge that you oppose HB5619. We agree with both the Connecticut Land Conservation Council and CFPA which are against this bill. In particular Section 8 and Section 5. Section 8, which proposes a transfer, for no cost, of six parcels of land totaling 66 acres of coastal property from CT DEEP to the Town of Groton for "economic development, recreational and open space purposes". The land is valuable for conservation, protects water quality and the viewshed of the Mystic River, and provides passive recreational opportunities. Section 5, which would require a study evaluating state land in the context of local zoning and require recommendations to transfer such properties. More information is needed to understand the intent behind that provision.

We are all only here for a short period of time and the right decisions made now to forever protect and preserve the quality of all public lands will be a legacy that will be enjoyed by generations to come.



SLCT – Preserving and maintaining Shelton's natural land resources.